

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 HA-05 IO-13 /096 W
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P R 150930Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5575
INFO USICA QGSHDC
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SOPN, CZ, US
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH

REFS A. MOSCOW 13089 B. MOSCOW 13429

1. CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA HAVE REACTED TO THE PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH IN TWO BURSTS. RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE JUNE 12 LEANED HEAVILY ON TASS INTERPRETATION(ANIKHIN ARTICLE), ADDING SOME INVECTIVE OF ITS OWN FOR GOOD MEASURE. TELEVISED COMMENTARY NIGHT OF JUNE 11 DID VIRTUALLY THE SAME. SECOND BURST OF CRITICISM, BY RUDE PRAVO FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR DUSAN ROVENSKY JUNE 14, PICKS UP STORY ABOUT HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS' LETTER TO
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PRESIDENT CARTER, NOTES THE CRITICISM THAT LETTER CONTAINED AND THEN ATTACKS THE ANNAPOLIS SPEECH. IN GENERAL, THE MEDIA HAVE BEEN CRITICIZING PRESIDENT CARTER MORE SHARPLY IN RECENT WEEKS THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE THE HEIGHT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB CONTROVERSY IN 1977.

2. ROVENSKY ARTICLE, WHILE UNFRIENDLY, NOTABLY POINTS OUT THAT

"NOT EVERYTHING CARTER SAID WAS NEGATIVE." BUT THE ARTICLE ECHOES SEVERAL POINTS MADE IN MOSCOW PRESS (REFTELS), TO WIT, THAT PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ABOUT SALT ARE FINE, BUT HAVE NOT BEEN BACKED UP BY DEEDS, THAT THE SPEECH CONTAINS STATEMENTS "TYPICAL OF THE COLD WAR," AND THAT "IT IS INSULTING AND UPSETTING IF THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES SO GROSSLY INTERFERES IN MATTERS WHICH ARE THE BUSINESS OF SOVEREIGN STATES," MEANING BOTH HUMAN RIGHTS AND WHAT IS TERMED THE "INALIENABLE RIGHT AND INTERNATIONAL AND HUMANISTIC DUTY TO HELP THE PEOPLES OF THOSE COUNTRIES FIGHTING AGAINST IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION." LIKE THE REPORT IN PRAVDA JUNE 8(REF A), ARTICLE REFERS TO PRESIDENT CARTER REPEATEDLY JUST AS "CARTER." (THIS USAGE IS MORE COMMON HERE THAN WE GATHER IT IS IN MOSCOW.)

3. ROVENSKY ARTICLE ALSO ECHOES PRESS REPORTS OF THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER BRZEZINSKI, WHOM IT TERMS A "STAUNCH ANTI-COMMUNIST." COMMENT: WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE ON CZECH TELEVISION BEFORE LONG THE FILM ABOUT BRZEZINSKI, WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO BE SHOWN LAST OCTOBER BUT WAS TAKEN OFF THE AIR REPORTEDLY AT FOREIGN MINISTRY INSISTENCE (77 PRAGUE 3072). END COMMENT

4. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL THIS WEEK ASKED AMBASSADOR WHAT PRESIDENT'S SPEECH MEANT. AMBASSADOR REPLIED ALONG LINES THAT ACROSS THE BACKGROUND OF PROGRESS ON SALT PRESIDENT WAS EMPHASIZING GROWING USG CONCERN OVER EVIDENT SOVIET LACK OF RESTRAINT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN SUCH IMPORTANT AREAS AS THE ARMS RACE, IN WHICH MOSCOW CONTINUES TO DEVELOP WEAPONS FAR IN EXCESS OF MANIFESTLY DEFENSIVE NEEDS, AND AFRICA, WHERE SOVIETS AND CUBANS APPEAR DETERMINED TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN STRUGGLES THAT WASHINGTON BELIEVES SHOULD BE SETTLED BY AFRICANS ALONE. AMBASSADOR DREW ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT'S TIMELY APPEAL TO MOSCOW TO DECIDE BETWEEN COOPERATION AND CONFRONTATION. SPACIL DID NOT CHOOSE TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT ANY FURTHER.

5. FULL TEXT OF ROVENSKY ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT (EUR/EE).
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